

NOV 22 1961

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Approved For Release 1999/09/16 : CIA-RDP70-00058R

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WE'D BETTER BE RIGHT THIS TIME

When Allen Dulles retired as chief of the Central Intelligence Agency he said, in reviewing some of the accomplishments of the organization, "CIA has to admit to many of its errors but never can boast of its victories."

There is considerable evidence that CIA had a hand in bringing about the downfall of the Trujillos in the Dominican Republic. It appears to have gone very well. But if the man the United States is backing as the new leader in the Dominican Republic, President Joaquin Balaguer, doesn't come off well the dumping of the Trujillos will have been for naught.

The record of the United States in Latin America is very bad. We have consistently put our chips in the wrong places. We are getting from Castro in Cuba just about what we should have expected. We backed his pre-

decessor, whom we knew to be a cruel, ruthless dictator.

It will be said in some places that no matter how things work out in the Dominican Republic under Balaguer they couldn't be worse than they were under the Trujillos. That's what was said in many places when Castro took over in Cuba. We got something much worse. Perhaps we couldn't have done anything about it. Perhaps there was nothing we could have done to develop friendship with Castro. When all the story of this chapter of Cuban history is fully written we will know.

Be that as it may, we didn't pick Castro. There is evidence that we did have a hand in selecting Balaguer. We must pray the decision was right. Another setback for Uncle Sam in Latin America would be tragic.